

February 28, 2001

The Pest Monitor



A Pesticide Use Reduction Update

Issue 4

"T" Time - Pesticide Pilot Projects Take Flight

Jackson Park Golf has been the testing ground for two pesticide reduction pilot projects. **Floratine** is a group of products designed to maintain turf grass at optimal levels with the intent of reducing turf disease. The products have been tested on putting green turf under heavy play and so far the results have been promising. The turf is strong and healthy and the golfers are still playing to par. This year we will be expanding the project to include all of the greens on the 18-hole course and combining with compost tea on selected greens for additional analysis.

The second product, **compost tea** is a solution containing very high numbers of beneficial soil microbes derived by processing compost in a Microbe Brewer. The compost tea is being tested to improve the disease resistance of putting green turf. So far the results have been inconclusive but combining compost tea with the Floratine Program may provide better results. We will continue to maintain a small putting green with compost tea supplemented with organic based fertilizers.



Maintaining healthy greens through sound cultural practices makes Dana Peabody smile

Compost tea is also being tested at the **Woodland Park Rose Garden** to determine if it is effective at suppressing the two common rose disease problems of black spot and powdery mildew. So far the results have been mixed. We will implement the project for the entire 2001 season and make some changes in amendments, compost tea recipes and compost sources.



An interesting project has been underway at **Volunteer Park Greenhouse and Conservatory**. Dave Helgeson has been introducing **beneficial insects** to expand the biological IPM approach to control pest insect populations. Dave will soon have a report on the results and the initial recommendation is to continue the program.



An exciting new demonstration project is the **Pesticide Free Park Initiative** which will select six Parks in different regions of the city that have the potential for sustainable pesticide free maintenance practices. The proposal is in the planning stage and sites will be selected this Spring.



At **Pritchard Beach Park** **compost tea** was used to determine if it enhanced the establishment of recently planted native wetland and upland plants. The results did not show significant benefits and the recommendation is to discontinue this pilot project as pesticide use is not an issue at this park.

Sue Denure enjoying the day spraying compost tea at Pritchard Beach



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More Pilot Projects

The **Mulching Process Pilot Project** tested effectiveness of a multi-department approach to using mulch for weed suppression. Application efficiency, mulch quality, supply, storage sites and transportation were evaluated. We will be working on a plan for a Citywide organic material recycling program and examine the options for citywide green waste management and mulch applications on a programmatic basis.



Mulching machine turns landscape debris into useable resource

A **Landscape Demonstration Project** is being installed at **Green Lake**. Grounds management staff are experimenting with BMP shoreline landscape techniques, focused pesticide reduction, erosion control and habitat enhancement. The project is waiting for the shoreline permit process to be completed and expects to be fully planted by fall 2001.



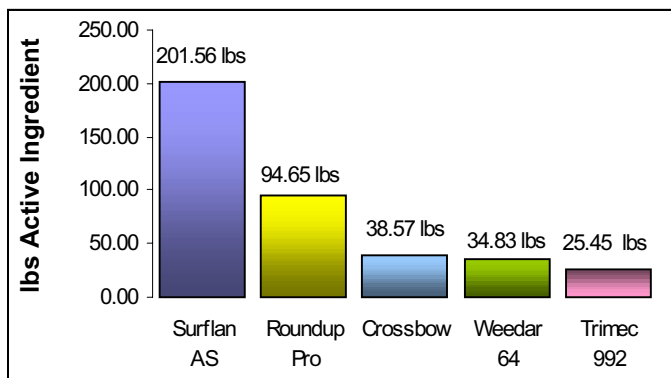
Results of the **Hot Water Weed Control** pilot project have not been as positive as initially hoped. The project goal was to determine if boiling water or super heated steam is an effective technology for controlling specific weed populations and so far the results have not been promising. There was some success with annual weeds and newly germinated weeds and the top killing of established perennial weeds but most weed populations require repeated applications resulting in high labor costs. The recommendation is to discontinue as the machine is too expensive, cumbersome and slow for practical use. Radiant heat weed machines use a similar concept with a more practical technology.



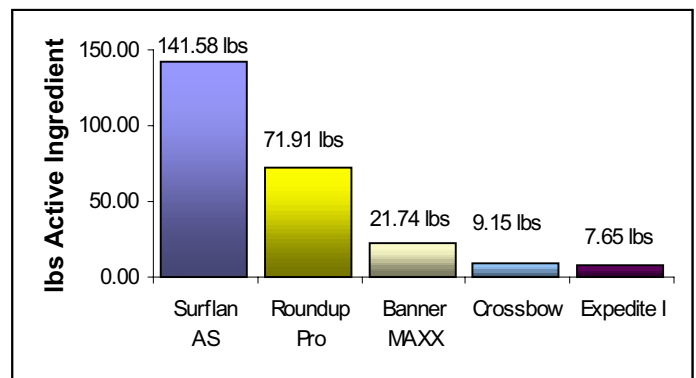
Data, Data, Data.....

Most departments and worksites are now able to enter their pesticide application records directly into the pesticide application database. **Please don't forget to enter the application records at a minimum once a month.** OSE will provide regular updates on the City's progress in meeting its 30 per cent reduction target. For those folks who are not yet able to enter data directly, please call Julie Tobin, OSE, 615-0817 to be set up with access.

Top 5 pesticide products (herbicides/insecticides) by lbs of Active Ingredient used by the City in **1999**



Top 5 pesticide products (herbicides/insecticides) by lbs of Active Ingredient used by the City in **2000**



City of Seattle

Pesticide Reduction Program

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Highest Used Products and No. of Applications

1999

Surflan AS - 37 applications

Roundup Pro - 198 applications

2000

Surflan AS - 250 applications

Roundup Pro - 354 applications

Note: 2000 - Crossbow applications were made prior to the June 30 Tier 1 cutoff